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ABSTRACT

Accomplishing significant improvement in teaching and learning requires strong, open, and interactive relationships between schools and the community. Chapter 1, "What's Out There," explores the vital role of teacher morale in successful reforms and argues that teachers and schools should actively connect, in more effective ways, with the wider community. Challenges confronting schools include the impossibility of their isolation, growing diversity, demands for flexibility, technological change, greater needs among teachers, parents, and communities, the pressures of complex environments, and exhaustion of existing structures. Chapter 2, "Going Deeper," invites schools to stimulate transformative moral experiences by teaching students to love, care, serve, empower, and learn. Educational change literature is typically cerebral, neglecting the emotional components of effective teaching. Chapter 3, "Going Wider," examines the power of community alliances and networks in relation to such important external forces as parents, communities, government policy, technology, businesses, and the changing teaching profession. Chapter 4, "Getting Out There," offers to leaders interested in establishing strong community connections a set of guiding principles supportive of educational change. The three vital principles are capturing public imagination with a positive agenda, focusing on relationships, and balancing resoluteness and flexibility. All teachers can help leave a lasting legacy by making students partners in learning, being responsive, becoming assessment literate, refusing to mind their own business, developing and using emotional intelligence, and helping recreate the profession. (Contains approximately 120 references.) (TEJ)

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